



Horatio P. Van Cleve and
family papers.

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Yonkers May 6th 1846

Dear Mother,

I have been putting off writing from day to day in hopes of receiving a letter from home, but as I have thus far been disappointed I shall start this epistle hoping it may bring an answer in return. In Mary's letter she asks me what price I set on the piano I am entirely unable to say, but will leave it entirely to you. can you not find out what such are selling for? and if Isabelle gets it I will let her have it for considerably less than you could get for it elsewhere for I feel as if I should like to have it remain in the family. Just let me know what it would sell for to any one else and I will let Isabelle know what she can have it for. You may be sure that nothing but dire necessity would induce me to part with it, but it is so much my that we should have something to help ourselves with that I feel that were our dear father living, he would consider us justifiable in parting with it. In a few years at most we hope to be released from our troubles and then if possible I shall purchase another piano for the children who both show a decided taste for music and will be too happy to teach them. Your dear Grandfather is much delighted to hear of the purchase of the Philadelphia Convention it has been again decided but this time in favor of the Union but it has been referred to a Superior Court and cannot be taken out of the hands and is now almost beyond recovery.

some of the things which have been said to me
I think very probable, we shall yet get it but I have never seen any
thing of the kind before. I have found her very kind and I do not wish to have my
expectations raised merely to have them blasted. Nevertheless
should we ever hope any thing from this disputed will I
trust I shall be truly thankful, for it would be exceedingly
acceptable. Poor Uncle Rochester how ^{much} he has pined that
saying of Solomon "he lengtheneth his sickness and knoweth not
when death shall gather them" in this case there is no more
to gather all if the hair increase as rapidly as there at present
seems a prospect of their doing. John has a sixth child a son
in October Rochester's family will probably number as much
as mine and in December will be somewhat increased
if nothing happens to prevent. If Isabelle is not matrimo-
nially engaged when she comes here this summer I must
ask her to come prepared to spend the winter with us. As
of this is wearied in that time, I am counting the months
and almost the weeks that must elapse before I see you
and I am trembling too, for fear I shall be disappointed
to see you before the first of July. He will probably be absent about four weeks so that he
will be returning about the time you start for Michigan.
He cannot determine his exact route until he hears from
Louis but I think most likely they will come through
Schenectady. I am getting very anxious to hear from
Mary is getting along and hope she has not as many
bad feelings as I have for I am very miserable most

of the time although I am happy to meet that my worst
feelings will be over. I have one of the best girls that ever
was and have no hard work to do and do not intend leav-
ing this summer except my own children and three young
ladies who will come to the house for two or three hours every
morning so I shall not have too much to do. I am spending
considerable time in cultivating flowers this year and hope
I shall have something pretty to show you when you come.
I should be very glad if Isabelle could procure me some
rare kinds of seeds from some of her friends and would
promise to take good care of them. The house we live in
is a very poor one but I am trying to beautify the
side at least with vines, honey suckle &c. &c.
I think we shall like Philadelphia very much and I trust
and that of our dear little ones will spend the winter
old and perhaps happy. The young children will
well and grow very rapidly. I don't think I should wonder
if they be ashamed of them.
When have you heard from dear Caleb and when
do you expect him home? How constantly I think of him and
how much I want to see him.
Remember me affectionately to Mr. Lincoln and give our love to
all the girls what is Ellen about this summer? If you see Mr.
Peckins remember us to him. Antoinette and Elizabeth
I love the way, Fous says "yes Mary is a fine girl no mistake
though she did once stand in her own light and refuse a
good offer." Write soon dear mother and I hope you will
be able to say that you are perfectly well. Mary and I

health now with very good this spring. I hope
well is with you give her my love. Good Bye dear mother
I pray that God may continue to protect and bless you as
at his holy altar and when we are all like with
his trying troublesome world may be all meet around
his throne in
Glory for his dear Son's sake.
Your affectionate daughter Charles



Cincinnati May 10th 46

Dear Charlotte you have wondered at our
long silence, but various causes have prevented
my writing — my health has been quite bad
this spring, have been troubled with a bad cough,
but the pleasant weather makes me begin to feel
like myself again, and the cough has nearly left me —
your sisters are well, Mary will be confined early
in June I think — have had at length and affectionate
letter from Malcolm in which he speaks of all his
sisters with regard — I do not think that he intends
coming home this summer, still he may surprise us
by a visit — You speak of wishing to raise money
here at 10 per cent, it is difficult to do so; I hope
when I make you a visit this summer to bring
you something towards your Pinus, if you still wish
to part with it; altho out of fashion, I do not like to
have it go out of the family — if Mr. Buckner goes
for Louise when will they be in Cincinnati? I shall be
very glad to see them — I am very glad to learn that
you have removed to Appolonia, hope you will
find it a pleasant home, that your health will
be better, and your trials less, my poor child —
God is good, and may yet bless you temporarily
how are the children I wish to see you all,
if Mary should be pretty well I wish to start
the last of July or 1st of Augst — every thing depends

upon how she gets through her confinement - as I
must leave my large family with her -
I wish that I could send you something at
this time, but it is not now in my power -
my expenses are great - and I am anxious to
leave every thing right - when I go from home
Mary has just been into the room where
I am writing, and said "Ellen tell Charles
that I look just - as she did when I was at
Flat-Rock." - Belle promises herself much pleasure
from her visit to Michigan, I hope we shall not
be disappointed. - tell us in your next how you are
situated, and if you like your new home, if your friends
are kind, and how is your health and the children?

Ellen has just gone this morning to the school which Belle
was at; 'tis my intention that she shall remain there until
she has gone through the course of studies taught - which
will be if she is diligent when she is sixteen. I consider
it a very good institution, she will spend her Sundays
at home, and return each Monday morning -

Give Grand-mamma's and aunt's love to the children
and remember us all to Mr. Fairbank.

Your Mother with

much affection

C. A. Clarke

Wilmington May 28th 1846

Dear Mother,

Your kind letter of the 10th inst was rec'd with much pleasure and should have been answered long ere this had not my time been constantly occupied with my many duties, but this morning I feel better than I have done for some time past and have determined to steal time to talk with you a little while. We were truly grieved to hear that your health had not been good this past winter but sincerely hope that the warm weather will entirely reestablish you ~~in health~~. Take great care of your cough and do not expose yourself in the bath, for surely there is no need that you should. I am truly anxious about Mary, as I know so well how to sympathize with her in hopes that the next news I hear will put me out of suspense. She is old enough and has judgment enough to take care of herself, and however well she may feel do not let her exert herself too soon. I know well that I shall never recover entirely from the effects of over exertion after the birth of Frederick; it is a delightful season of the year for such business and I trust she will be carried safely through her trial. We were disappointed to hear that dear Frederick was not coming home this summer although as you say he may still surprise us with a visit. When will you write to him again? I want to send him a long letter. I did not know how dearly I loved him until we came to be separated so long.

I sometimes hope that when we see him again he may
be a changed man, for this object have I prayed daily
since he left us. You ask how we like this place
we are pleased with it although it is not our intention
to mix much in society as we feel no inclination for
it whatever, but the privileges which we enjoy here are
far superior to what they were in Flat Rock. The society
is a curious mixture mostly made up of "parvenus"
or as we might say more inelegantly mushrooms
for they seem to have sprung up in a night and
to feel mightily puffed up with their own importance
though perhaps it would hardly be agreeable for most
of them to cast their eyes back even for a year or two
only. Our family pride is not one of
my feelings and yet somehow since we moved here
I have felt a kind of satisfaction at least if it has
not amounted to pride in feeling that there has been
something in my ancestry more ennobling than the bare
possession of a few dollars and cents. We have our
due share of attention however from these ambitious
portentous beings and of sometimes I see in it all a mix-
ture of condescension it only serves to amuse me especial-
ly when I reflect that perhaps in a few years the posses-
sion of some paltry dust may change that same being
into the more contemptible one of cringing. Do not
suppose that I indulge much in these feelings but
sometimes they come unbidden and I try unavail-
ingly to drive them away as unworthy of one who

proposes to be a follower of the meek and lowly Jesus
and who hopes that her treasure is in the skies.
Our friends here are very kind and we are happily situ-
ated with regard to them all. The brothers are all much
attached to Kash and he seems very happy to be near
them. It is probable now that John will go for some
time and that the next best thing for him to do
has written to say that she cannot arrange her business
before that time. We are all looking for word most
anxiously to your coming this summer. I think you
would enjoy a visit here very much, and do not cal-
culate upon a short one, for remember it will be
the first time you have ever made me, and I
shall not be satisfied with any thing half made.
What does Belle think of the winter arrange-ment
perhaps it is asking too much of her, but it would make
us very happy. The children are very well and very happy.
John has got to be a great farmer and enjoys
his liberty much. Fannie grows very fast and is
becoming very well. They talk daily of Grand-ma's
visit and anticipate much pleasure. I am glad
Ellen is going to the school you speak of and hope
she will continue till she completes her course, much
depends I think upon a child going steadily to the school
till she is able to us I should like to see if she im-
proved. Have you any of you read a little story
by Dickens called the "cricket on the hearth" if it is the
most exquisite little thing of the kind that I ever read

Write to us soon and tell me how you are getting on.
 Tell Mary that Mrs William Hunter's wife is coming to stay
 and that she and her sister are mother and sister. I lately saw
 a letter from Mrs Hunter describing a visit to
 the Pope - she was much pleased with the old gentle
 man and presented to him a little rosary which
 he blessed.

Wm. W. Clark
 of New York
 to
 C. Bennett
 Ohio

Thomson
 and
 Co
 New York

Mark
 to
 Mr. Bennett
 New York

in Rome and intend spending their summer
 in Switzerland; they hired in Athens a net made
 for their baby think of that an American woman being
 out to a Mark! This transit gloria mundi
 I had almost forgotten that there was more to be
 required or wished for in Mexico I see and I
 hope some to be receiving laurels with me. I
 shall try to be useful to the man who is
 so much interested in his native soil.

Dear Mother

Your welcome letter had just arrived and was
I assure you a most acceptable one. I am just about to
a little time this evening while Father holds our little
dancing to commence an answer though it is some-
what doubtful whether the little lady will not be
in it at one sitting. Father's letter was received a few
days since owing to detention nearly a month from
the time it was written. I shall advance it as soon as
possible. We were much pleased with Eliza's letter and
wish she would write frequently so that we could have good
exercise for her. Her description of my little niece
and nephew makes me quite anxious to see them
big than both for me and while you are kissing little
Elly you may just present my compliments to her
and I wish you could ask her if she ever thinks of writing
to her sister, tell her also that if the lines of "All of us are
spared and we are able to visit you next summer I shall
not be at all afraid to embark in a letter with her
Our little Elizabeth is so far very well and we trust
she may be spared to us, she is settling aside a parent
particularly very smart and is the pet of the house.
We try hard not to love her too well but find it impossible
to keep our hearts from clinging to her very closely. We
must from two nights ride the same necessity of the heart
dancing, death, who can tell what may happen before

in New-York? Mother and Anna are both well
and are always much delighted when we hear from
you. Although Anna generally has a hearty cry to get
circumstances is to have you come here. The day to
night I must tell you all to "come to see us right off"
not forgetting Aunt Ellen and the little boy for which
we are in a great hurry to see you. I am glad I am
not in Belle's reach whenever when I am sure the
fact that I have cut her hair off but by next year
it will be long again and will cut probably later
than ever for all her hair was dropping out and the
new crop is just beginning to grow. This was probably
caused by the last summer's heat but I am sure I shall
feel that her precious hair was spared to us that I cannot
much regret the temporary loss of her curls. Sister and
John with their families are well. Houston has gone
finally and will look very much like his dear mother.
Louise is expected here as soon as the weather is such
that some one can go for her. She is now in Dayton.
I am sure you will think I have been very
young in writing this letter of my letter, but you would think it
was very short but a rest if you had seen the way I
have worked in the mean time. The day after I commenced
that which my girl was then sick and all day after
to get over the fever. I have been very careful until
now. Ruth has now gone for one who promised to come
to day and I am expecting her every minute.
I am sitting with my foot on the cradle endeavouring
myself a bit of desperation to finish this letter which

you have in my post box and as my mind has
whole year. My baby good father at home with me
she was what the Doctor called a high bilious
disarrangement. She now appears quite well and is
amiable and is the delight of her parents whose
only fear is that they shall lose her so well that
God in his mercy will see fit again to send our
strings by taking another of our treasures to himself.
Pray for us dear mother that if it be his Holy will
we may not again be bereft. He calls her Elizabeth
Creech to gratify poor Houston and to like the name
very much. I have not yet thought for your
kind remembrance of us the last time I wrote and
the like very handsome and as for the money
which has been claimed by the children who are
delighted with them and wear them frequently.
We have had intensely cold weather ever since the year
came in and have had our time fully occupied in
trying to keep ourselves and the children warm. I am
much in hopes however that this season will not
last much longer. The children have given me a great
many old pages to send to you but I must leave
her them all, only I know there is a great deal of
and a quantity of letters in the package. Anna
has teased me ever since I sat down to write to
let her write her name and I must gratify her
you much has in mind that she is a little restless
and has just picked up the letter which she has
the occasion (Miss) enclosed she sends also a letter

Dayton Jan. 22nd 1847

My dearest brother

What in the world has become with you that you never write to me? It seems a very long time since I have heard from you and Charlotte. and I do feel ~~very anxious to hear from you~~ "The Canal" have been open when I first reached Dayton, I would have now been with you, poor Houston's afflictions would have hastened me to Upsalanti - I received a letter from Wherry last week proposing my coming on now, as I had before thought I would do, as soon as the roads became settled for winter, but his letter found me suffering with a violent attack of tooth ache, and swollen face, originating doubtless from having had several teeth plucked a few days before, and afterward taking cold. It is ~~improbable~~ ^{probably} be a month before I ~~am~~ ^{would} be able to leave as the dentist has not finished his work, and it would be then so near spring that I have concluded I had better wait until the Canal opens in April. Uncle is also very much opposed to my leaving until then, and I hope that we may have an early spring, as I am impatient to be with you - I feel anxious to do anything I can for Houston's comfort, and if we could live to ourselves it would be pleasant for us both, but I cannot tell how I would be situated to go into Mr. Brower's family. This is in confidence, and I want you to tell me kindly and conscientiously what you think of it - Can I get along pleasantly with the old gentleman? I am willing to suffer some inconvenience if I can only give satisfaction. I feel a strong yearning towards the babe and long to have the care of it - it may make up in

parts for my sweet Lavinia. "How hard dear brother to give up a dear babe - oh! how fondly my fingers around my little sufferer have troubles all over, and safe, safe in her Lavinia's bosom - Oh! to be found worthy to wait her at this feet - I try to feel resigned, but oh! how hard to say "thy will be done" - I know dear brother that I find sympathizing hearts in you and that you will be so sympathetic to me and I cannot dwell on this painful subject.

I feel anxious to hear how you are getting along - if you make a comfortable living on the farm? We had a letter from Wm Brown lately - he seems to think that there is no doubt about our getting Uncle Houston's legions, although it will be yet a year before it will be decided - I hope indeed we may - it will be a comfort to many of us.

I am spending my time here most pleasantly - my friends are very kind, and do all in their power to make me happy. Uncle and aunt are at present absent, aunt is in Cincinnati with Edga Anderson, who has been sick all winter uncle is in Columbus, but will go to visit for aunt before his return - Cousin Dickerson is well and all his family, they live in splendor - Mamma and her family are well - she has her hands full - I find Dayton very much improved in every respect - it is really a very desirable place of residence - I was in Cincinnati but a few hours, I would have gone to see Mrs. Clark, had I been longer there - I heard that Isabel was married - tell me the particulars -

How are Malcolm and Anna, and how is the baby - I want you to write particularly of them all - Willie and Mary are well they are going to school, Willie is thick and really striving to improve, I fear it is not so with Mary

Have you any good schools in Upsalanti? I am very much interested in that subject? My children have had but few advantages, I feel very anxious to improve their time now.

Mrs. Worthington was here a few days since, he leaves soon for the East. Cousin Elizabeth is spending the winter in Ont. "Holly" I have had, but one short letter from Mrs. L. I hope to hear from her soon.

along. Mrs. L. is health is still delicate, but she and Mr. L. are to send many kind messages to you, which will be delivered in the spring. I am enjoying myself very much here, but still longing to fly to Michigan, oh! that I could be with you, I feel as though I wanted to settle myself down among you never to part again - May God grant it - and if you have time to give me, my love and still - May happier, brighter days be ours - I have written very hastily and hurriedly more to elicit an answer from you than this hurried epistle can afford. There is so much visiting and company here, that I can find very little quiet for letter writing - it is almost an impossibility; I am writing in constant fear of interruption, and I fear incoherently - You have probably seen accounts of the great flood in Dayton - it was a fearful time - almost the whole town under water - The centre of the town alone safe -

Give much love to all, and believe me ever your own

Love
Pep Charlotte and the children for me

Ans. Feb 12, 1867

St. Louis Mo.

12
10
Hort. R. Van Cleve Esq.
St. Louis Mo.
Missouri

10

May 14,

in celebration

of the



Cincinnati July 24 1847

Dear Charlotte

I am just writing a word in great haste this morning, to let you know that your friend was shipped yesterday for Toledo Mr Mellen wished to pay the freight through to Detroit, but found that they would not receive here only as far as to Toledo, I hope that it will arrive in good order —

We are all well this morning, Belle is so well that other her infant is not two weeks old until the 26th, she intends going home tomorrow to live with the family, have heard nothing from Malcolm as yet.

Mr Mellen leaves on Monday for New York, expects to be absent 6 weeks, will visit Ellen on his way, John Burleigh has not been in Cincinnati, have they returned home? Belle will write you in a few days.

Mary and Sallie are well, Sallie has just recovered from the measles which she had very light — all send much love — my love and regards to all — all my grandchildren for Grandmothers —

Yours affectionately Mother
G. H. Clarke

Mane	1200
Body	250
Stable	150

Box 250

Stable 150

1600

House 1000

2/17/00

880

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1500

1^{re} 400

1300

1328

$$7662 \overline{) 1157}$$

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Wm Christie & Co. London

4/20/47

Cincinnati April 25th 48

Dear Charlotte

I started a Barrel ^{yesterday} containing bedquilt, and the Carpeting mentioned in the Invoice. You will find the Carpet ~~very~~ ^{very} dirty we moved in such haste, it must be spread upon the grass after being well shaken, and then it can be hung up, and Malcolm will give it a good beating with sticks; you will find a large green spot upon one side; if you cannot get it out, I will show you how when I come, I am quite famous for such work; Mr VanLester will with take it down, it should be stretched quite tightly and about the Coal smoke can be taken off by sprinkling the Carpet with coarse corn meal and then sweeping hard with a broom. I am sorry it is in such a bad condition, but it is a good carpet, and will look quite well when clean.

Our dear Belle left yesterday; I am staying with Mary until after her confinement which is homely expected. Mr. Mellen has purchased a large Coal mine in Ky. ~~the~~ the Big Sandy 175 miles from Cincinnati; he intends ~~staying~~ remaining here until all things are going on to his mind (perhaps two or three years) and then placing an agent at the establishment, and returning himself to Cincinnati. I shall leave this in about three weeks make Ellen a visit of about a month, and hope to be with you in June, if all things

happen as I wish, shall be able to remain with
you four or five weeks - have as yet heard nothing
from Elizabeth - can write no more this afternoon
shall see you so soon and explain every thing -
my love to Mr. Burleigh, and the children -
the paints &c I shall bring with me -

I have written in great haste as I must go to Leominster
before evening, and do not like to be long from Mary -

May Heaven bless your my child, and grant us a
happy meeting -

Your affec^t brother
C. C. Clarke

If you write Belle direct
to W. P. Mellen, care of S. D.
Lincoln Cincinnati, and
your letter will be forwarded



Mrs Charlotte D. Buckle
Care of Houston Buckle Esq
Apprentice

Michigan

Dear Mother

Dear Mother

I sit down in a great hurry to tell you a few
and announce to you the safe arrival of the carpet and
quilt both of which I assure you were very acceptable.
The carpet is an excellent one and I think we shall have
not trouble in cleaning it and I hope you will soon
see it on our floor. We are getting extremely anx-
ious to see you, shall you not bring Ellen with
you? we all hope you would do so that you say
nothing of it in your letter. My school is commenced
although as yet I have barely made a beginning. There
are two boarders and am expecting another next week and
we daily hear of some who wish to send to me soon,
probably by fall I shall have quite a large school.
I thank God and thank you with much love my scholars
improve rapidly and if my health permits I trust
I shall be able to do so. I shall be very glad to hear
from you next week and I shall send a letter by him
to Mary. I shall direct this to Haddam supposing
of course that you are there. We are well and looking
impatiently for you to come to Providence in a few days
we shall be in a perfect garden of bliss. Come soon
and if possible bring Ellen. Write on the receipt

of this, when I am to expect you and we will
arrange it as to meet you at the depth of
Apprentice. I saw Kerchival yesterday being
and about 10 is the same kind creature as ever
told Robt. in particulars of Hove's death.
I am suffering with delirium tremens
and imagine I am to be burnt up for this
sickness which I am sure of mind being kept
above one day. I am out a bed of coals and
sitting in it. I was so badly burned as to die in
a short time from the effects of this wound
just yellow. We are going to leave this afternoon
and I hasten to write this. I may tell it to
me. God bless dear Mother God bless you both
Ellen affectionately yours

C. O. Van Cleave

Monticello, Aug. 29th 1848-

My very dear brother,

I received your last letter a day or two since and hasten to answer it. I am glad you are doing so well, and that your prospects are so flattering with respect to your school. I almost wish myself in Michigan, that I might assist you - but dear brother, I am tied here - I have made the effort to live among my friends, and they ought to give me credit for my good intentions, but my property is here, and here I am obliged to stay - My heart's desire truly has been to be near you, and other members of my dear family, but I am doomed to be an exile, and I have resigned myself to my fate - I will establish myself here, in some way, and try to do good, and make myself useful - I do not feel that I can ever again make the effort to visit my friends, this has proved so disastrous to me, that I must hereafter stay at home, and let my friends visit me. I think notwithstanding my misfortunes, by the blessing of God, I will be enabled yet to have a comfortable home, where I want you all to come and see me - In your letter you said not one word about the children, I would like very much to have heard more particularly of them, and also of our brother families - I have only had one letter from Michigan, except those from your family, since I left there; I do not think it kind in my brothers to neglect me, yet I must bear it - I suppose if Horston were married you would have told me - I presume he and Ann will write it out some of these days - I would like to have heard of John's family - the next time you

write you must not forget to mention them.

I am pleased to hear that you like your farm so well. I wish indeed you could buy Mr. Brower out, from what I have heard he cannot be a very agreeable inmate of your family. I feel sorry you have been so disappointed in him. You ask me dear brother, if I have any money to lend? I have not, and I am sorry that I cannot aid you - I am now trying to collect my sale notes, but I am boarding now, and building on my farm and it requires all the money I can collect to keep my business straight - I have money loaned out, but cannot get at it - I feel so anxious to see you prosper, that I would make almost any effort to assist you, but I am now so situated I can do nothing. I did hope that by this time we would have heard something favorable from uncle Houston's will; William Houston & George Brown feel certain we will get it, but they cannot tell how soon. How much it would assist ^{us} and how comfortable it would make us all, but we must wait with patience. I do hope you will be able to effect a loan, so that you can buy out Mr. Brower - it will be so pleasant to have the whole house to yourself.

I am writing in great haste, at Monticello, where I have come up to Court on business; I cannot say what I wish, but there is so much talking around me, I can scarcely write at all. I wrote to you & Charlotte quite a long letter, a short time since - Willie & Mary were better when I came to town than they had been. I could not bring them to town - Willie has just come after me, he looks much better than when I left him.

Write frequently, yours truly & sincerely

Louisa

Monticello Mo.
Aug 30

10

Horatio P. Van Cleave Esqr.

Saline

Michigan

Cincinnati Sept 23 48

Dear Charlotte

I did not receive your letter of the
the instant until last evening, in consequence of its
going to Prestonsburgh — Mr Lincoln will forward the
\$ 23 and 45^{cts} to the Treasurer for paying the taxes on
the St Clair land, and I trust it will yet reach
there in season to prevent the sale, I wish you would
let me know when Mr Barclay makes a payment;
that there may be no mistake in future, Maj
Egypson always attended to it while he was
guardian to the children, and I never gave
myself any trouble about it, in future the
payments will be made promptly — Belle wrote
a word in your letter saying that they were
all well, except Mr Mellen's father who is in
very bad health — we are now all well at Mary's
but both Mary and myself have been sick since
our return to Cincinnati — the weather here is unusual
cold for the season — Mr Barclay need not give
himself any uneasiness about the taxes, we will
pay them, and when the land is sold have it
settled — I wrote you a week since — this morning
I have but a moment to spare — am very glad
that you have two girls, hope you will get comfort-
ably through the winter, keep up your spirits — love
to all — — — Your Mother C. A. Clarke

[Sept. 23, 1848]



Mr. Charlotte B. Vander

Line

Milwaukee

May 17th 1849

My Dear Sister

Yr. kind letter coming

so unexpectedly and so cordially has

actually overcome my diffident habits for once and

I write at least a few lines to let you see

that Mary is still in the land of the living

They are so happy to hear of your encouraging

prospects but do tell me, how in you would do

in marriage with four children for two or three

years and a crop of little rascals was near

at present and a crop of little rascals was near

born. He has taken it into his head for which

my amiable qualities I know not to be im-

mediately fond of me and because if I am

a moment out of sight - I am spending that

to morrow what shall I say to her the death of
her first baby nearly killed her she has
done us to say for her

Cincinnati Nov 14th 1850

Dear Charlotte,

I was much rejoiced to get a letter from you yesterday, it had been so long since I had heard that I became very anxious, am glad that yourself and the dear children were well, you do not speak of Mr W's eyes, I conclude that they are better -- Mr Taylor's marriage is a little funny, quite a family for a poor person -- hope that it may aid him in Christianizing the race -- I am very glad that Penny is doing so well, she will be such a comfort to you, and I shall be so glad to see her happy face on my return -- having another girl will give you so much time to take care of yourself and the children -- I am sorry that they should feel hurt at John's at our not ~~making them~~ ^{more} ~~best~~ ^{more} ~~conscience~~ ^{more} ~~you~~ ^{more} ~~that~~ ^{more} ~~we~~ ^{more} ~~often~~ ^{more} ~~spoken~~ ^{more} ~~about~~ ^{more} ~~it~~ ^{more} ~~and~~ ^{more} ~~would~~ ^{more} ~~have~~ ^{more} ~~been~~ ^{more} ~~glad~~ ^{more} ~~to~~ ^{more} ~~have~~ ^{more} ~~done~~ ^{more} ~~if~~ ^{more} ~~had~~ ^{more} ~~it~~ ^{more} ~~been~~ ^{more} ~~in~~ ^{more} ~~our~~ ^{more} ~~power~~ ^{more} ~~and~~ ^{more} ~~now~~ ^{more} ~~to~~ ^{more} ~~hear~~ ^{more} ~~of~~ ^{more} ~~their~~ ^{more} ~~difficulties~~ ^{more} -- I was very sad about Ellen last evening, but feel better this morning, have just finished a long letter to her, which I hope will have a good effect. I do nothing of course about the confidential part of your letter, although I am very glad that you mentioned it, if there is any thing serious I trust that she will let me know, as she has no reason to keep such a thing a secret -- my only objection to a proper ~~communication~~ ^{communication} connection for her is, that she is quite too young, and also I must know as much as can be known about the person she marries; feel that it would be necessary for her happiness that he should be very much older, and wiser than herself, and that she should be fully sensible of her own qualification -- I am very glad that you mentioned the circumstances, and hope that hereafter she may be more communicative towards you, Ellen is a strange child but has many good points, and I pray that she may be

led to do better when her character is more fully developed —
do write freely as often as you can; it would be very sad if
her, "my youngest" should form an unfortunate connection —
she has not written a word about it to me, and perhaps there is nothing
serious — next week we look for the little stranger. Shall write
immediately ^{on} its arrival. I forgot to tell Ellen that we have a
beautiful likeness of Seymour; a friend of Mary's saw, and bought
it for her in Philadelphia; it is a perfect likeness; and she has it
framed, with one that resembles Sallie a little, and both pictures hang
over the mantelpiece in the back parlor — I hope that you may
find much benefit from the medicine sent; write particularly about
it — trust if you are all well, that you may enjoy yourselves much
this winter — good sleighing, bright fires, occasional visits from A. C. friends,
apples and nuts to help out the long evenings, and sometimes an interest-
ing book, with happy and grateful hearts around the table, will make
winter a pleasant time if we did only fully appreciate all the
little things within our reach, how much happier we would be — I should
like very much to sleep in your beds "evening with you; tell stories,
or sing with the children, with a grandmother's privilege — Am glad
that the little ones are coming on so nicely, and that they are fond
of each other; it is healthy at Rosedale, and they have so much room
to play in the open air. — Some of us will be up in the Spring,
cannot yet tell how soon I shall visit you; but it will be a great
comfort if I do not see you before the summer is half spent.

Give much love to Mr. Vanhook, and all the dear, dear
children — tell Anne that there is a conspiracy on foot to
get her home here next season, and Fanny is also included in
the plan, they must now move about their relations and then they
will love them — Do not let her sit — savages forget
kindness — Mr. Lincoln has just come in bringing a good
letter from Belle. He is in excellent health and is first, with

that she weighs 124 lbs, and that little Queen is growing nicely; M. M.
will be here the last of this week, — on business for a day or two, and
Belle intends coming down on Christmas morn and your letter to her,
and talk with Mr. Mellen about the money, and he will answer Mr.
N. from here — tell Ellen that Mrs. Coleman said to Father Laurence
the other day, "Father Laurence if you will embroider a pair of slippers,
I will give one hundred dollars for them" Father Laurence sat immediately
about them, and working them very beautifully, and says that he
would like to do ten pairs upon the same terms — every body has
a laugh at Mrs. C. and the girls will have the benefit of her challenge.

Good bye — write as often as you can, I am very anxious when
I do not get one letter ^{once} a week, and do always tell me how
Ellen is doing, I hope she will be a comfort to you this winter,
God bless you all, yours ever more affectionately Mother

J. C. Clarke

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